

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on February 8, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered.

In this Amendment, Applicant has editorially amended the specification and claims 1, 3, 4, 7-10 and 12-14. Claims 1 and 10 are the independent claims, and claims 1-16 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

The specification was objected to for informalities. Appropriate correction has been made to the specification to overcome the objection. It is therefore respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

Claim 4 was also objected to for informalities. Claim 4 has been amended to overcome the objection, and it is respectfully requested that the objection to claim 4 also be withdrawn.

Claims 1-2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cho (US 6,219,038). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more clearly define the invention, which is supported in the specification, for example, at page 6, lines 23-26: "As shown in Fig. 2a and Fig. 2b, the touch pad **130** is disposed in the main portion **110**; in such a way that the main portion **110** is not exposed" and page 7, lines 26-28: "the touch pad is disposed in the main portion without forming a hole at the top

housing portion ", as well as at page 2, lines 15-18 "The receiving portion is formed on the internal surface of the housing and thus is not exposed by the housing. The touch pad is disposed in the receiving portion".

Amended claim 1 recites "A notebook computer with a hidden touch pad, comprising: a main portion including a housing portion, wherein the housing portion has an internal surface" and further, wherein "the internal surface **prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere** outside of the housing portion" (**emphasis added**).

As stated in the Description of the Related Art, conventional notebook computers are provided with a hole in the top housing portion, allowing water or vapor to enter the main portion. Therefore, designing a touch pad **without forming a hole at the top housing portion** is a main objective of the present application.

Cho discloses a water resistant touch pad comprising an apparatus housing 70 and a brace 30. "Brace 30 is set in apparatus housing 70 of the electric appliance in a manner that **exposes both pad 20 and buttons 36 to the atmosphere outside of apparatus housing 70 though openings 72 and 74.**" (column 4, line 27-30) (**emphasis added**).

Cho fails to teach that "the internal surface prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere outside of the housing portion". For at least this reason, claim 1 patently defines over the cited art.

Since amended claim 1 overcomes the rejection, dependant claims 2 and 4 also overcome the rejection.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Cho (US 6,219,038). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Cho (US 6,219,038) in view of Garner (US 6,501,462). These rejections are each respectfully traversed.

As amended claim 1 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and Garner fails to supply the deficiencies of Cho, the dependant claims are also allowable.

Claims 5-6 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Cho (US 6,219,038) in view of Keely, Jr. et al. (US 2002/0063694). This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 10 recites the same feature as claim 1 that “the internal surface **prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere** outside of the housing” (**emphasis added**).

Keely, Jr. et al. relates to a display for a pen-based computer system, and discloses a digitizer layer **18** mounted behind a backlight layer **16** and a display layer **10**. However, the display of Keely, Jr. et al. is not “a housing having an internal surface” as recited in claim 10. Keely, Jr. et al.’s display would correspond to display **120** in the preferred embodiment of the present invention, not to housing **110**.

As both Cho and Keely, Jr. et al. fail to disclose "a housing having an internal surface" such that "the internal surface prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere outside of the housing", claim 10 patently defines over the cited art.

As both claim 1 and 10 overcome the rejections, all the dependant claims are also allowable.

Other amendments to the claims were made for minor grammatical and antecedent basis reasons.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should any fee be required, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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